

Chronocoulometric method for the evaluation of antioxidant capacity of medicinal plant tinctures

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Abstract

© 2018 The Royal Society of Chemistry. The oxidation potentials of medicinal plant tinctures have been studied on glassy carbon electrode, modified layer-by-layer with multi-walled carbon nanotubes and poly(gallic acid) (PGA/MWNT/GCE) in phosphate buffer solution of pH 7.4. PGA-modified electrode has shown significantly higher sensitivity towards antioxidants in tinctures in comparison to bare GCE and MWNT/GCE. A novel approach for the evaluation of antioxidant capacity of medicinal plant tinctures using one-step chronocoulometry at 1.0 V has been developed. A steady state is achieved at 100 s of electrolysis. The antioxidant capacity has been expressed in quercetin equivalents per 1 mL of tincture. Linear dynamic ranges of 0.010-0.25 and 0.25-250 $\mu\text{mol L}^{-1}$ quercetin with the limits of detection and determination of 2.9 and 9.8 nmol L⁻¹, respectively, have been obtained. Eleven medicinal plant tinctures have been investigated. The antioxidant capacity decreases in the following order: *Rhodiola rosea* L. > *Paeonia anomala* L. > *Aralia elata* var. *mandshurica* (Rupr. & Maxim.) J. Wen > *Echinacea purpurea* (L.) Moench \approx *Schisandra chinensis* (Turcz.) Baill. > *Valeriana officinalis* L. \approx *Leonurus cardiaca* L. > *Mentha piperita* L. > *Calendula officinalis* L. > *Crataegus* spp. > *Panax ginseng* C. A. Meyer. Strong positive correlations of the antioxidant capacity of tinctures with the antioxidant activity and total phenolics ($r = 0.9715$ and 0.9738 , respectively, at $r_{\text{crit}} = 0.602$, $\alpha = 0.05$ and $n = 11$) confirm the accuracy of the developed chronocoulometric method.

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